

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Koushik Ghosh

DATE: August 8, 2003

RE: More on Incarcerated Youth:
Incarceration Rates for Young Adults Previously Served by Child-serving Agencies

Last week's PIP provided information about the proportion of young people (18–21 years of age) incarcerated who had a history of special education, mental health services, and/or had been on the Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS) juvenile justice and child protection caseload (www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/2003/pip080103.pdf). The analysis was conducted in response to a request from the Department of Corrections and addressed questions regarding the treatment history of young people in their system. In response to that report, Dave Yacovone (AHS) asked us to analyze these same data from the perspective of the Agency of Human Services. Specifically, Dave asked for the proportion of these service recipients who were later incarcerated.

In order to answer Dave's question, this analysis looks forward from the perspective of these children's programs, rather than looking backward from the perspective of the correctional agency, as we did in the previous analysis. For this week's analysis, we determined the incarceration rate for FY2002, for all young people who were served by these children's program during that year or any of the four previous years. The computation was repeated for four additional years (FY1998-2001) and the results for these five years were averaged. Because the data sets used in this analysis do not include unique personal identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of incarcerated individuals with previous involvement with these child-serving programs. For purposes of comparison, incarceration rates for young people in the general population of the state of Vermont are also reported.

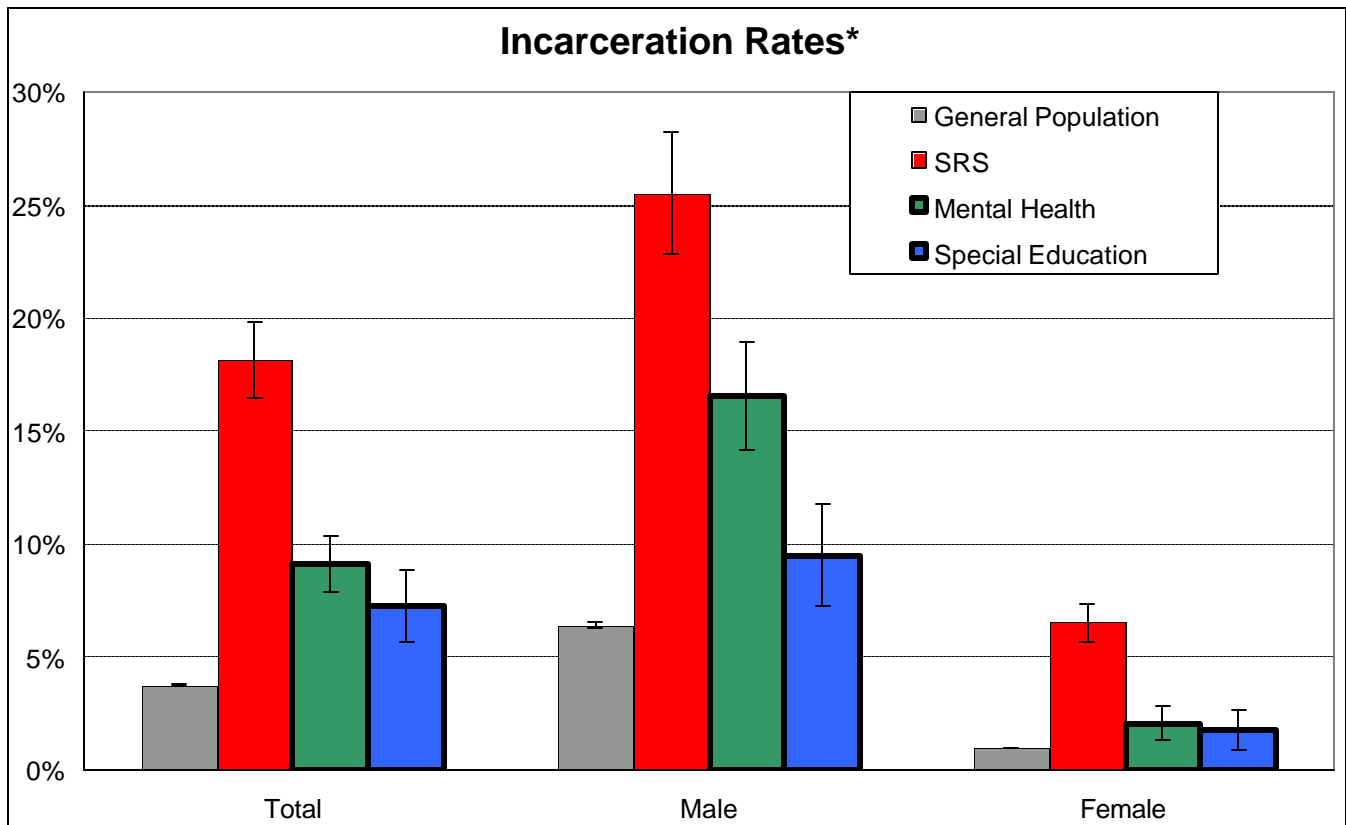
As you will see, young people who had been on the SRS caseload had the highest incarceration rates overall (18%, more than four times the general population rate). Young people who had been on the mental health caseload had the second highest incarceration rates (9%, more than twice the general population rate). Young people who had been on the special education caseload had the lowest incarceration rates (7%). Incarceration rates for boys were substantially higher than the incarceration rates for girls in every service group. The elevated risk of incarceration (the incarceration rate for service recipients divided by the incarceration rate for the general population) among SRS service recipients, however, is greater for girls than for

boys. There were no significant differences, however, between the elevated risk of incarceration for girls and boys on the mental health and special education caseloads.

As always, we look forward to your interpretations of these data as well as your comments, questions, and suggestions for future analysis pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us or call 802-241-2638.

Average Annual Incarceration Rate*

For SRS, Mental Health, and Special Education Service Recipients



Average Annual Numbers and Rates* : 1998-2002			
	Total	Male	Female
<u>General Population</u>			
Number	27,110	13,908	13,201
Number Incarcerated	1,006 ± 17	885 ± 16	120 ± 2
% of General Population	4% ± 0.1%	6% ± 0.1%	1% ± <.01%
<u>SRS Services</u>			
Number in Program	1,983 ± 27	1,214 ± 23	770 ± 14
Number Incarcerated	360 ± 33	310 ± 33	50 ± 7
% of SRS	18% ± 1.7%	26% ± 2.7%	6% ± 0.9%
<u>MH Services</u>			
Number in Program	3,390 ± 55	1,655 ± 37	1,736 ± 40
Number Incarcerated	307 ± 42	271 ± 40	36 ± 13
% of MH	9% ± 1.2%	17% ± 2.4%	2% ± 0.7%
<u>Special Education Services</u>			
Number in Program	3,731 ± 69	2,640 ± 66	1,091 ± 21
Number Incarcerated	269 ± 61	249 ± 60	20 ± 10
% of SPED	7% ± 1.6%	9% ± 2.3%	2% ± 0.9%

*Reported incarceration rates are five year averages (FY1998 through FY2002). Average numbers served are based on unduplicated counts for each incarceration year and the previous four years.

Includes SRS, Children's Mental Health Services and Special Education Services.

Based on data provided by The Department of Education, The Department of Corrections, SRS , and Community Mental Health Centers.

Because the data sets used in this analysis do not share unique person identifiers, Probabilistic Population Estimation was used to determine the number of individuals represented in both data sets (with 95% confidence intervals).